

Given two short paragraphs one of which takes a strong stand and the other of which provides information, the student discriminates between them.

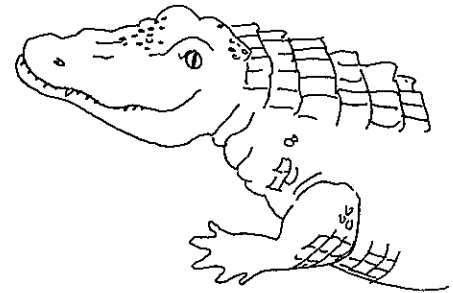
UNIT 3
Lesson 1
Critical Reading

TECHNICAL TALK

Can you tell when someone is pushing you? You can tell if someone is trying to push you out of a line. That's easy. But can you tell when someone is trying to push the way you think? A writer may try to do this by using writing tricks. One of these tricks is called editorializing.

TRY IT

One of the following paragraphs gives the author's feelings. The other does not. Can you tell which is which?



WRESTLING ALLIGATORS

(a) John Morgan wrestles alligators. He has spent many of the last 20 years flipping the beasts. He works in a park in Florida. People pay to see him jump into a pit and grab two animals at once. Each one is at least six feet long. He says he must be careful to stay away from their tails. They can slap a person hard enough to break a leg. John's work is really disgusting.

(b) Anne Morgan is John's wife. She doesn't care for alligators. She said just a few weeks ago that she had had enough of the beasts. She said she once worried about John. Now she thinks the alligators are safe. She tried to wrestle one of the animals once. She had no trouble pinning a little one. Since then she laughs when her husband jumps into the pit. "They are like kittens," she says.

Paragraph _____ presents the author's opinion in the sentence: _____

REVIEW

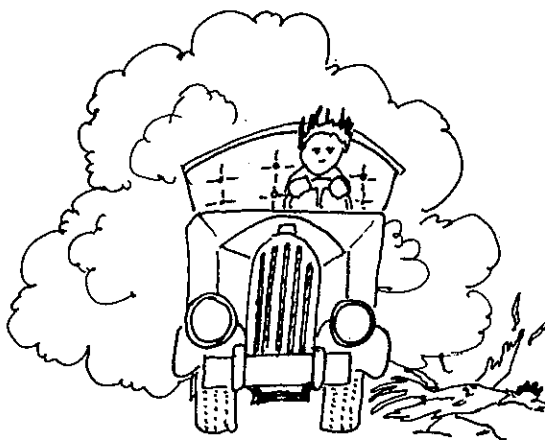
UNIT 3 Lesson 2 Critical Reading

If you said paragraph (a), you are right. The last sentence in the paragraph states the author's own feelings: "John's work is really disgusting." Although you may agree with the author, this sentence does not state a fact. It gives an opinion. Giving an opinion is all right in some kinds of writing. But readers must be able to tell a fact from an opinion. Otherwise they may be tricked into believing something that is not true.

Read each of the sentences below. Mark each one with F if it is a fact or with O if it is opinion.

FACT OR OPINION

- ___ 1. Everyone should be allowed to drive.
- ___ 2. Driving is easy.
- ___ 3. More than 80 million people have driver's licenses.
- ___ 4. In most states drivers must take a test before they are licensed.
- ___ 5. Motorcycle riders should wear helmets.
- ___ 6. In some states the law says motorcycle riders must wear helmets.
- ___ 7. Many drivers say they do not like people who don't dim their lights at night.
- ___ 8. According to law, drivers can lose their licenses for reckless driving.



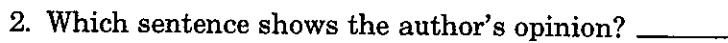
UNIT 3

Lesson 3

Critical Reading

Abraham Lincoln was a tall, thin man. He often wore a tall stovepipe hat. Ⓐ People thought the hat made him look like a giant. A lot of people laughed at him. The newspapers of his time were full of cartoons about him. Ⓑ They called him ugly and ignorant. A little girl thought his face needed something. She told him he would look better if he grew a beard. Ⓒ He wore a beard from that time on. Ⓓ Abraham Lincoln may have been ugly, but he was the greatest President who ever lived.

Ⓐ The greatest warrior who ever lived was Geronimo. He was a chief of the Apache Indians. In 1876 the Apaches were forced onto the White Mountain Reservation. Geronimo led his followers to camps in the mountains. Ⓑ They hid there and were safe. Ⓒ From those camps Geronimo led raids into Mexico and Arizona. For more than ten years he terrorized people near Tucson, Arizona. Ⓓ He was finally captured in 1866 and sent to Florida.



3. Which sentence shows the author's opinion? _____

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